IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION No 10564 of 2000

For Approval and Signature:

Hon'ble MR.JUSTICE M.S.SHAH

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1. Whether Reporters of Local Papers may be allowed to see the judgements? : NO

2. To be referred to the Reporter or not? : NO

3. Whether Their Lordships wish to see the fair copy of the judgement? : NO

4. Whether this case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution of India, 1950 of any Order made thereunder? : NO

5. Whether it is to be circulated to the Civil Judge? : NO

JITENDRABHAI CHHAGANLAL PATEL

Versus

REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICER OR HIS SUCCESSOR IN OFFICE

Appearance:

MR CHETAN K PANDYA for Petitioner

MR AKSHAY H MEHTA for Respondent No. 1

CORAM : MR.JUSTICE M.S.SHAH

Date of decision: 17/10/2000

ORAL JUDGEMENT

Rule. Mr.Akshay H.Mehta, Learned Standing Counsel for the Central Government waives service of rule for respondent.

2. In this petition under Article 226 of the Constitution, the petitioner has prayed for a writ of mandamus directing the respondent to issue a fresh passport with corrected entries with respect to birth date i.e. 21.11.1963 and first name i.e. Jitendrabhai as per his birth certificate (at annexure "A" to the petition).

3. The petitioner was earlier issued passport which was renewed till 7.11.1998. In the said passport his birth date and first name were mentioned as 21.11.1962 and Jitendrakumar as per School Leaving Certificate. When the petitioner applied for a fresh passport the petitioner requested the authorities to correct the incorrect entries reflected in the earlier passport on the basis of incorrect entries in the School Leaving Certificate and to make entries as per the birth certificate. The said request of the petitioner was turned down and the petitioner was instructed orally to obtain orders of this Court. Hence, the petitioner has filed the present petition.

4. In view of the settled position that if there is any discrepancy between the birth date recorded in the birth certificate issued by the Municipality/Local authority and the birth date recorded in the School Leaving Certificate, the birth date recorded in the birth certificate should normally prevail, the Regional Passport Officer should not have had any hesitation in accepting the petitioner's request for showing the birth date in the passport on the basis of birth certificate issued by the Valsad Nagarpalika (at annexure "C" to the petition).

5. In view of the above discussion, the petition is allowed. The Regional Passport Officer is directed to consider the petitioner's request for change of date of his birth and change in his first name in the passport in accordance with law on the basis of the material which may be placed before the Regional Passport Officer more particularly the birth certificate issued by the Registrar, Birth & Death, Navsari Nagarpalika (at Annexure "C" to the petition) and shall pass appropriate orders within a period of one month from the date of receipt of writ of this Court or a certified copy of this judgment, whichever is earlier.

In case the petitioner is required to apply for a fresh passport, the petitioner shall comply with the

requisite formalities for the same.

6. The petition is accordingly allowed in the aforesaid terms. Rule is made absolute to the aforesaid extent.

7. Since the respondents are not responsible for the mistake in question, the petitioner shall pay costs of this petition, which are quantified at Rs.1,500/- to the respondent within two weeks from today. Direct Service is permitted.

17.10.2000 (M.S.SHAH,J)